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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



29 JAN 1969

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: AFNIN

SUBJECT: Soviet Civil Defense (U)

TO: Lt General Joseph F. Carroll, USAF
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

Dear Joe

The USAF Force Structure Committee, with the approval of the Air Staff Board, has directed that AFCSA (Studies and Analysis) conduct an exhaustive analysis of the effectiveness of current Soviet Civil Defense capabilities in relation to our programmed forces. To do this, expansion and quantification of the judgments in NIE 11-3-68 on Soviet Civil Defense are required.

Using NIE 11-3-68, we are unable to define the combat readiness of the Soviet Civil Defense system; paragraph 69, for example, states that the Soviets emphasize planned urban evacuation but provides no judgments on capabilities. For the Air Staff analysis, an estimate with quantification and probabilities is needed on the number (or percent) of the urban population that the Soviets could evacuate; the timing factors involved; the distances to which evacuees would be taken; the degree of shelter presently available in the Soviet cities and in the dispersal areas; and how visible such evacuation would be. These quantified data are crucial in determining our strategic deterrent and in testing our programmed forces--particularly when the criterion used by OSD in measuring effectiveness is the Soviet fatality level. To be persuasive with OSD such quantification must be based on agreed intelligence.

Since civil defense was considered in NIE 11-3-68 but without conclusion as to actual combat effectiveness and without the precision required for analysis, it is suggested that a Special National Intelligence Estimate be requested from the USIB addressing the specific question of the current Soviet civil

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defense capability. Completion of this SNIE at an early date is required since the Air Staff (as well as OSD) analyses are now in progress and may be in serious error if the Soviets can now evacuate a significant portion of their urban population in a short period of time.

Jeh
JACK E. THOMAS, Major General, USAF
Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence

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